



News from Congressman Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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**FOR INFORMATION CALL
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TOM LANTOS ANNOUNCES LOCAL HOMELESS PROJECTS WILL RECEIVE \$920,000 IN FEDERAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo / San Francisco) announced today that projects in San Francisco and San Mateo County will receive more than \$920,000 to help the homeless. These funds will be made available through one of the most admired federal programs.

"This aid comes at a very important time," Lantos noted. "Local media recently have focused much-needed attention on the destitute and often desperate people who have fallen through the holes in our society's safety nets. With the recent economic conditions for the most vulnerable of our neighbors, it is only fitting that the federal government now steps in to lend a hand."

The funding comes from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). Projects in San Francisco city and county will receive \$556,545 next year, while San Mateo County projects will receive a total of \$364,844.

Locally-based advisory boards will oversee disbursement of the funds. In recent years, the projects in the area receiving assistance have included the Samaritan House in San Mateo and the Hamilton Family Center in San Francisco.

The EFSP helps individuals and families with non-disaster, short-term financial needs, and concentrates specifically on smoothing the transition from temporary shelters to permanent homes. It provides supplemental funding to shelters, soup kitchens and food banks, as well as projects that help those in need make rent, mortgage and utility payments.

The program has distributed nearly \$2.5 billion in communities nationwide since Congress authorized it in 1987. It serves more than 11,000 local non-profit and government agencies nationwide. The program is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, now overseen by the Department of Homeland Security.

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